

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following section headings on amended page 1, after the title and at line 3:

-- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1) Field of the Invention --

Please insert the following section heading on amended page 1, at line 10:

-- 2) Description of the Related Art --

Please replace the paragraph on amended page 1, beginning at line 11, with the following replacement paragraph:

-- ~~The wheelchair mentioned in the preamble has~~ Wheelchairs have been in existence for several years. For example, such a wheelchair is described in the European patent EP 0 528 235 in the name of 'Haas & Alber Haustechnik und Apparatebau GmbH' (Alber). The wheelchair described in the Alber patent contains a frame provided with several carrying wheels, whereby a DC motor is included in a wheel hub of each carrying wheel for the drive of the carrying wheels. Here, the DC motor is provided with a transmission. Each carrying wheel is provided with an insertable axle, with the help of which the carrying wheel is detachably connected to the frame. The stator of each DC motor is detachably fixed to the frame via a support part, in particular to a case that is part of the frame. The advantage of such an electrical wheelchair is that the wheelchair can be relatively quickly and easily assembled and disassembled, in order to be able to facilitate the transport of the wheelchair. Apart from this advantage, the conventional wheelchair also has several disadvantages. One important disadvantage of the conventional wheelchair is that the frame and the carrying wheels must be fitted to each other, in order to be able to achieve correct assembly and functioning of the wheelchair. Thus, the frame must be provided with a case or such provision for inclusion of the support part connected to the stator. This means that the frame must always be provided with an adapter to be able to fix the stator, in order to make it possible to transfer the drive torque to the carrying wheel. --

Please insert the following section heading on amended page 1, at line 30:

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --

Please replace the paragraph on amended page 2, beginning at line 1, with the following replacement paragraph:

-- For this purpose, the invention provides a wheelchair ~~of the type mentioned in the preamble~~ having a frame, at least two carrying wheels and at least one wheel motor, characterized in that a stator of the wheel motor is provided with at least one support element for support on the fixed world. Here, the wheel motor can at least be partly fitted in a wheel hub but it is also feasible that the wheel motor is fitted at least partly in the support element or is constructed together with it. Here, such a support is made in another way than via the frame. By letting the stator support directly on the fixed world via the support element, rotation of the stator can be countered (to a certain extent), without a special adaptation of the frame being required. As a result of the mainly fixed state of the stator, the torque supplied by the rotor of the wheel motor can be transferred to the wheel hub and thus to the carrying wheel, which results in rotation of the carrying wheel and thus displacement of the wheelchair. Therefore, a carrying wheel provided with a wheel motor can only be detachably connected via the corresponding insertable axles to generally each frame known in the state of the technique. The carrying wheels can thus be relatively quickly and easily connected to a different type of frame without requiring special measures to adapt the frame, such as the application of an adapter. Such a great degree of flexibility is especially advantageous in case the frame must be (temporarily) replaced by another frame, for example as a consequence of maintenance work and/or with the trial of wheelchairs, whereby the frame can be relatively quickly and easily exchanged with the other frame. A supplementary advantage of the direct support of the stator on the fixed world is that this supplementary support on the fixed world will generally considerably improve the stability of the wheelchair, so that instantaneous and relatively easy tipping (falling over backwards or tilting) of the wheelchair can be prevented, or at least can be countered. Moreover, with the support according to the invention, the carrying wheels can be connected further forward to the frame than is common according to the state of the technique. As a result, the centre of gravity of a user of the wheelchair will become closer to the axis of rotation of the carrying wheels (this means that the plumb line through the centre of gravity of the user will become closer to the centre line

through the carrying wheels). This modification makes a simplified handling (manoeuvring) of the wheelchair possible. --

Please insert the following section heading on amended page 5 at line 20:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --

Please insert the following section heading on amended page 6 before line 1:

-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS --